

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5051

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: NAC CONSIDERATION OF BURDENSHARING REPORT, OCTOBER 24

REF: USNATO 5024

SUMMARY. INITIAL NAC CONSIDERATION OF BURDENSHARING STUDY GROUP REPORT WILL BE ON OCTOBER 24. RUMSFELD WILL SEEK TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON PART II OF REPORT, EMPHASIZING SERIOUS NATURE OF PROBLEM AND AVOIDING ARGUMENTS OVER STATISTICS OF THE PAST. END SUMMARY.

1. AS INDICATED IN USNATO 5024, REPORT OF BURDENSHARING STUDY GROUP IS ON NAC AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24. MISSION EXPECTS PERMREPS TO POINT OUT THAT TIME IS NEEDED FOR CONSULTATION WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS BEFORE SUBSTANTIVE, INSTRUCTED DISCUSSION OF REPORT. THE FRG, CONSTANTLY OBSTRUCTIONIST IN STUDY GROUP, MAY WELL ARGUE THAT PAST BILATERAL OFFSETS FULLY COVERED US BOP DEFICITS RESULTING FROM STATIONING OF US FORCES IN THEIR COUNTRY AND THAT PROBLEM NO LONGER EXISTS WHEN US ACHIEVES SURPLUS POSITION IN BASIC BOP. FRG ATTITUDE IN STUDY GROUP HAS HAD EFFECT ON REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER ALLIES, MAKING THEM RESERVED IN EXPRESSING VIEWS.

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2. RUMSFELD PLANS TO MAKE BRIEF STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

BEGIN TEXT: IN OUR VIEW, THE STUDY GROUP HAS

FURNISHED COUNCIL WITH A USEFUL AND OBJECTIVE REPORT. IT HAS DEFINED THE PARAMETERS OF THE PROBLEM AND DISCUSSED A RANGE OF PRACTICAL MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST BY THE UNITED STATES FOR ASSISTANCE IN MEETING THE FINANCIAL BURDENS WHICH RESULT FROM THE STATIONING OF ITS FORCES IN EUROPE.

AS I HAVE SAID, THE UNITED STATES HAS NO PRECONCEIVED PLAN AS TO HOW NATO SHOULD SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. THIS IS A MATTER ON WHICH THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS IN CAPITALS MUST MAKE THE DECISIONS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL.

WE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE REAL PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM IN TIME FOR THAT PROGRESS TO BE REFLECTED IN THE NATO DECLARATION ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND AT THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETING THIS YEAR.
END TEXT.

3. THIS IS ADMITTEDLY THIN GRUEL, BUT THE BEST APPROACH I CAN SUGGEST WITHIN PRESENT GUIDANCE. REQUEST SUCH ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE.
RUMSFELD

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